

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-47 are now pending in the application. Claims 8 and 20 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on March 20, 2007. During the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the incompleteness of the Office Action with respect to amendments made in a Preliminary Amendment filed on January 3, 2007. The Examiner agreed to issue a new Office Action that addressed the new claims added in the Preliminary Amendment.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have amended the specification according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner notes that claim 8 was “mistakenly omitted” and requests appropriate correction. Applicants respectfully note that the Preliminary Amendment filed on January 3, 2007 amended the claims to correct the claim numbering. In particular, original claims 9-25 were properly renumbered as claims 8-24. New claims 25-47 were added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Original claims 7, 9, 20, and 21 (renumbered as claims 7, 8, 19, and 20) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants amended the claims that included “hard semaphore” to simply recite “semaphore.” Applicants cancelled the claims that included “soft semaphore.” Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now enabled.

Original claims 10 and 22 (renumbered as claims 9 and 21) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 13 to recite first and second processors. Applicants respectfully submit that there is now proper antecedent basis for the recitations of “first and second processors” throughout the claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

The Examiner rejected each of claims 1-7 and 9-25 in the present Office Action mailed January 12, 2007. Applicants renumbered the claims 1-24 to correct omitted claim 8 and added claims 25-47 in a preliminary amendment filed January 3, 2007, prior to the mailing date of the Office Action. A preliminary amendment filed in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121 should be entered provided that it is received before the mailing date of the first Office Action and it is not disapproved by the Director. (*MPEP* § 714.01(e) III-IV).

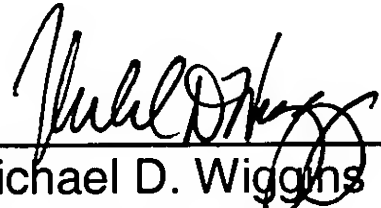
Applicants respectfully note that the Office Action mailed after the receipt of the preliminary amendment did not address claims 25-47. Each pending claim in an Office Action “should be mentioned by number, and its treatment or status given.” (*MPEP* § 707.07(i), in view of 37 CFR § 1.104, “Completeness of examiner’s action”). Applicants respectfully submit that the incomplete examination of claims 25-47 significantly affects Applicants’ ability to reply to the Office Action and request that a new Office Action be mailed, with a new period of reply beginning on the new mailing date. *MPEP* § 710.06. In the telephonic interview conducted March 20, 2007, Applicants’ representative and the Examiner discussed the incomplete Office Action. The Examiner agreed to issue a new Office Action accordingly.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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